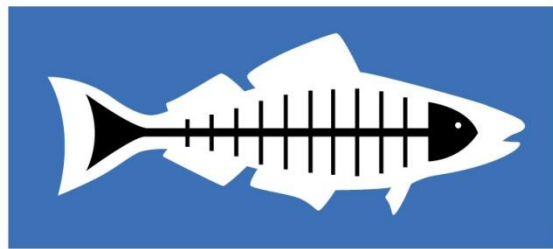


AB 885 Policy on Septic Systems

June 19, 2012



Heal the Bay



Major Remaining Concerns

- the Policy still needs:
 - provisions for detecting failing existing high- & moderate-risk systems
 - incentive for timely TMDL development & compliance
 - a numeric nitrogen limit for large systems

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Pumper Reports

- Goal- to detect failing existing systems:

Upon pumping, the Service Provider shall evaluate the OWTs to determine the condition of the system, including but not limited to, the condition of the tank, signs of surfacing and any repairs or upgrades required to ensure that existing systems are functioning properly and provide a report to the owner and Local Agency.

COPY

County of Santa Barbara Septic Tank Inspection Report

(Please Print or Type)

Department Date Stamp

Date of Service/Maintenance: _____

Owner's name: _____ Phone No.: _____

Location of inspection: _____
(ADDRESS) (CITY) (ZIP)

No. of Bedrooms: _____ Year Septic System Built: _____

Septage disposal location / date: _____

System Components:

☐ Septic tank with leach field or drywell
 ☐ Septic Tank With Seepage Pit (Hollow)
 ☐ Cesspool
 ☐ Other

Estimated capacity of septic tank or cesspool: _____ gal. No. of compartments: _____ Amount pumped: _____ gal.

No. of Access Lids: _____ Depth to Access Lids: _____ Diameter of Access Lids: _____

Construction of septic tank or cesspool:

☐ Rectangular
 ☐ Round
 ☐ Other
 ☐ Concrete
 ☐ Fiberglass
 ☐ Plastic
 ☐ Brick
 ☐ Other _____

Condition of tank:

	No	Yes
Tank deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baffle wall deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lids are deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heavy grease build-up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	No	Yes
Inlet tee present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outlet tee present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
House lateral open	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Needs pumping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Minimum concrete thickness of tank top, measured at lids: _____ Method of Measurement: _____

Prior to pumping, was effluent level above outflow tee? ☐ No ☐ Yes (may indicate failing system)Signs of surfacing effluent? ☐ No ☐ Yes, location: _____Any signs of past drainage problems? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Maintenance Performed: _____

System appears to be functioning satisfactorily? No ☐ Yes ☐Repairs / upgrade required? (see reverse side) No ☐ Yes ☐
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Comments / Recommendations: _____

Did a Qualified Inspector personally inspect system? No ☐ Yes ☐

(Complete for Sign-off)

Company: _____

Registration/Contractor's License No.: _____

Site Map

COPY

The useful life of any septic system is determined by numerous factors including, but not limited to, soil characteristics, water usage and proper maintenance. This inspection report is based on observations by the inspector and information provided by the system owner. It is not a guarantee of system adequacy.

Signature of Qualified Inspector: _____ Date: _____ Phone: _____

Tier 0 – Moderate-Risk Existing OWTS

- Why is threshold 10,000 gpd for existing systems?

“Experience shows that larger OWTS (greater than 3,500 gallons-per-day) are more likely to fail than smaller ones and are best limited to design flows of less than 6,000 gallons-per-day (Plews et al. 1985).”

-- From Attachment 2: Scientific Assumptions, Findings and Conclusions to be Addressed by Peer Reviewers.

Tier 3 – Impaired Areas

Advanced Protection Management Programs for Impaired Areas

- Existing, new, and replacement OWTs that are near impaired water bodies may be addressed by a TMDL and its implementation program, or special provisions contained in a Local Agency Management Program. If there is no TMDL or special provisions, existing, new, or replacement OWTs within 600 feet of impaired water bodies listed in Attachment 2 must meet the applicable specific requirements of Tier 3.

Major Remaining Concerns

- the Policy still needs:
 - provisions for detecting failing existing high- & moderate-risk systems
 - **incentive for timely TMDL implementation & compliance**
 - a numeric nitrogen limit for large systems

Timeline Of TMDL Implementation



Preamble

TMDL Compliance Deadlines

Attachment 2

- Tables 4 and 5 specifically identify those impaired water bodies that have Tier 3 requirements and must have a completed TMDL by the date specified, and the TMDL must set an implementation schedule to meet waste load allocations within 10 years of the specified date.

Tier 3 – Impaired Areas

- 10.3 If a TMDL for the impaired waterbodies identified in Attachment 2 is not in effect within five years of Policy adoption, OWTS will undergo an inspection within the sixth year by a qualified professional to verify the system is not failing or contributing to the impairment. If the system is found to be a failed OWTS and/or contributing to the impairment, the OWTS will upgrade to Advanced Treatment within 1 year. Inspections shall occur every 3 years if no TMDL comes into effect in the interim.

Major Remaining Concerns

- the Policy still needs:
 - provisions for detecting failing existing high- & moderate-risk systems (>3,500 gpd)
 - incentive for timely TMDL compliance
 - **a numeric nitrogen limit for large systems (>3,500 gpd)**

Tier 3 – Impaired Areas

- 10.9.1 Effluent from the supplemental treatment components designed to reduce nitrogen shall be certified by NSF, or other approved third party tester, to meet a **10 mg/L limit** in total nitrogen **for commercial properties discharging over 3,500 gpd** ~~when comparing the 30-day average influent to the 30-day average effluent.~~
 - 10.9.1.1 For commercial properties discharging over 3,500 gpd, when 10mg/L limit is not achievable, the OWTs owner shall apply for a WDR.

Table 2. Selected Performance of Residential Nutrient Reduction Technologies

Vendor and Model ^A	Average Total Nitrogen, mg/L as N ^B		% Reduction ^C
	Influent	Effluent	
A	36	15	58%
B	37	14	62%
C	39	14	64%
D	37	15	59%
E	39	19	51%
F	37	16	57%

^A Because the ETV Program does not compare technologies, the performance results shown in this table do not identify the vendor associated with each result and are not in the same order as the list of technologies in Table 1.

^B mg/L as N = milligrams per liter as nitrogen

^C Table in Metcalf and Eddy shows the following values of nitrogen reduction using older technologies: Total Nitrogen Raw 35-80 mg/L and effluent of septic systems, 25-60 mg/L, corresponding to 25 - 30 % removal. These numbers show that the new ETV technology is an improvement - doubling previous removal rates.

U.S.EPA Environmental Technology Verification Program: Residential Nutrient Reduction

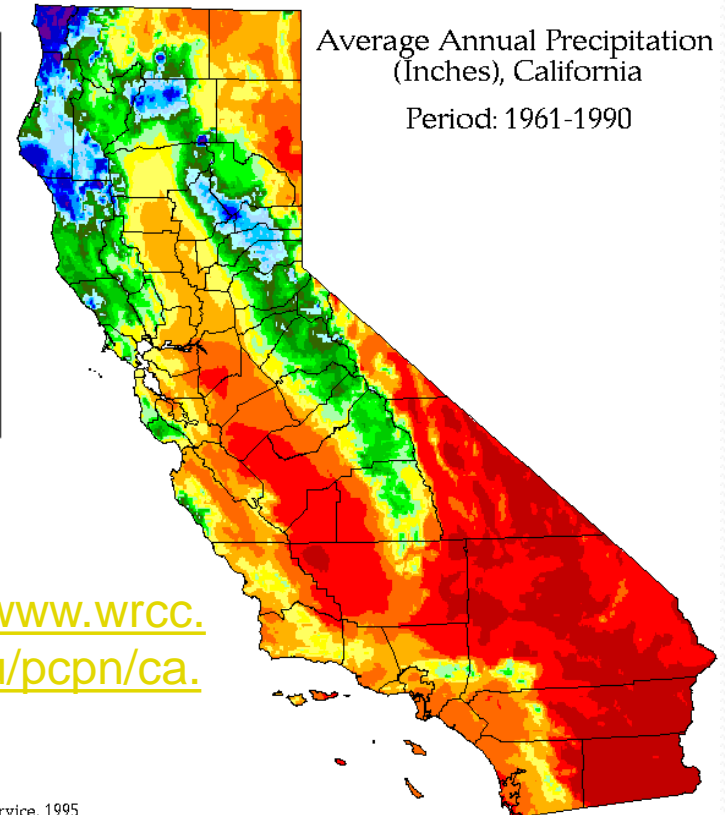
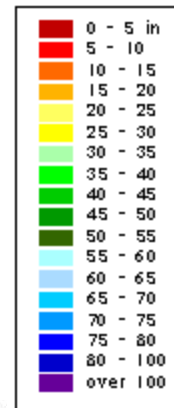


Other Concerns...

Density Revision

Table 1. Allowable average densities per subdivision under Tier 1.

<u>Average Rainfall</u> <u>(in/yr)</u>	<u>Allowable Density</u> <u>(acres/single family</u> <u>dwelling unit)</u>
<u>0 - 15</u>	<u>2.5</u>
<u>>15 - 20</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>>20 - 25</u>	<u>1.5</u>
<u>>25 - 35</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>>35 - 40</u>	<u>0.75</u>
<u>>40</u>	<u>0.5</u>



<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/pcpn/ca.gif>

Oregon Climate Service, 1995

Strengthening Clarifications

- 9.1 “~~Where different and/or additional requirements are needed to protect water quality~~ the local agency shall consider any of the following, as well as any other conditions deemed appropriate, when developing Local Agency Management Program requirements...”
- 9.1.12 Geographic areas that are known to have multiple, existing OWTs located within either the pertinent setbacks listed in Section 7.5 of this Policy, or a **more conservative** setback that the local agencies finds is appropriate for that area.

Depth to Groundwater

Tier 2

9.4.8 Separation of the bottom of dispersal system to groundwater less than ~~two (2)~~ **five (5)** feet, except for seepage pits, which shall not be less than 10 feet.

Conditional Waiver

- 12.0.2 The OWTS shall not utilize a dispersal system that is in soil saturated with Groundwater, **nor shall the separation of the bottom of a dispersal system to groundwater be less than five (5) feet.**



Thank you